Servants on

HORSE-BACK:

OR,

A Free-People beſtrided in their perſons, and Liberties, by worthleſſe men:

BEING

A Repreſentation of the dejected ſtate of the Inhabitants of *Summer Iſlands.*

CONTAINING

Short Illuſtrations upon a Petition preſented to the High Court of Parliament for REDRESSE.

Publiſhed by *Will. Golding* Maſter of Arts, and Teacher to the Congregation in that Iſland

2 Chron. 16. 10.

Then Aſa was wroth with the Seer, and put him in a priſon-houſe, for he was in a rage with him, becauſe of this thing: and Aſa oppreſſed ſome of the people the ſame time.

Quam quiſque peſſimè fecit, tam maximè tutus eſt, Salust.

Printed in the Yeare, 1648.

BRITISH MUSEUM

THE EPISTLE

To the Honourable Committee of Lords and Commons, Intrusted to examine the Petition presented unto the *Parliament*, in the behalfe of the Inhabitants of the *Summer Islands*, by Captaine *Sayle*, and *William Golding*.

June Anno 1646.

Honourable Sirs,

IT pleased the high Court of Parliament to accept a Petition, in behalfe of the Summer Islands, and to recommit it unto your selves, for examination, your care and readinesse in attending that trust, was very eminent, onely you met with obstructions, partly from the Company who are concerned in the *Petition*, partly from the sad breach between City and Armies emergent in that nick of time, and since, by the necessitated absence of Captaine *Sayle*, and my selfe, whose attendance was requisite. In pursuance thereof, Honourable Sirs, I beseech you resume the Complaints which are before you, That your Petitioners may not languish under an usurped power; nor the power and honour of Parliament be trampled on, by the vilest of our English Nation. Sirs, to set this wheele on motion, I have presumed to publish the copy of the Petition, and papers affixed, as presented unto the High Court of Parliament. As also some few Acts and Lawes, made by governours Councell and Assembly with us; with some Animadversions upon them for your better information, leaving it to the wisdome and justice of Parliament to judge thereof. Sirs, I have taken this course, not with desire to asperse the Honourable Company, the Nobility and Gentry of that Court, from whom we have alwayes found helpe, when their leasure would permit their presence at the Court; but to discover the practice of the trading-party, who hold the people in bondage, and study to vex those, who plead for liberty. Besides, Sirs, Those of the Company concerned in the Petition, will be ready to give out, that your Petitioners durst not owne their act, and therefore withdrew, and declined the prosecution thereof; whereas the world shall know, that was not the reason; But the attendance upon places, care of our families, a good providence opening a way for our returne; with our great expence, under long delayes, were the true causes of it. Sirs, Mr. *Steele*, who is of Councell hath the copy of papers at large, if you desire further satisfaction then what is Printed. The wise God make you as Angels to judge righteously, and as Gods to relieve the oppressed.

Sirs,

I am you humble Servant,

William Golding.

ΠΡΟΛΕΓΟΜΕΝΑ:
OR,
The Preface to the READER.

MY purpoſe is not to compile a Hiſtory, nor to enter upon a diſtinct Narration of all tranſ-actions with us: (I ſuppoſe that will be performed by a better hand) but onely to give a briefe aſſay of things, that the Honourable Court of Parliament, with others, may clearly perceive, wee have not complained without a cauſe. I ſhall briefly premiſe a few things to cleare a way to the enſuing Treatiſe, viz. The Reader is deſired to take notice,

1. That the Iſland called Summer Iſlands (alias Bermuda) is governed by a Company of Merchant Adventurers of London, who hold their power by Patent from King James, who keep Courts, make Lawes, and reverſe them at pleaſure, choſe Deputy governours, Magiſtrates, and Commanders over the Inhabitants there, all which, depend for direction in their reſpective places, upon the Company of London.

2. That though there be many noble Lords, and worthy Gentlemen of that Company, yet are they ſtrangers (for the moſt part) how things are carried in the Bermuda Court; for their more weighty imployments, take them off from ſo low and inconſiderable affaires. The Court is upheld by a Deputy, and a few aſſiſtants; many of whom being of the trading party, wait upon the quarterly Courts, to conſult what may tend to their advantage, and the government of the Iſland in ſubordination to that end.

3. That the pretenee of the preſent difference in the Iſlands, is about a congregation gathered there into Goſpel-fellowſhip; the beginning whereof, and by what authority gathered; the manner of its proceeding, with the oppoſitions it met with in its infancy; is faithfully reported by Mr. White, Paſtor of that Congregation, in his anſwer to a ſcandalous paper, ſent from the Iſland, and Printed under the Patronage of Mr. Prynn; all which I ſhall paſſe over to prevent tediouſneſſe.

4. That through the indulgence of the High Court of Parliament, and Honourable Committee for the American plantations, the Congregation in Summer Iſlands is indempnified in matters of Gods worſhip by their orders.

Theſe things premiſed, I ſhall give a briefe account of the proceed of things, occaſioned ſince the Company of London choſe Captaine Turner to be Governour of theſe Iſlands.

Servants on Horſe-back.

IT pleaſed the Company (or part of them) *Anno* 1645. to change their Governour in *Summer Iſlands* (how regularly they proceeded I ſay not) and choſe Captaine *Thomas Turner*, pretending that he being an honeſt and diſ ingaged perſon, and now cloathed with authority, might the better heale the diſtempers of the Iſland, who arriving at the Iſland, ſoon diſcovered his purpoſe and deſigne, and within ſix or ſeven months acted ſo excentrically, that many of the Inhabitants finding themſelves agrieved, did earneſtly intreat Cap. *Sayle*, and *William Golding* to addreſſe themſelves for *England*, to ſeek ſhelter for themſelves, and others, againſt the blacke ſtorme which was fallen upon them; who, caſting themſelves, and families upon the Lord, undertooke that * Province, and by the good hand of God upon them, comming to *London*, they beſought the Company to heare their complaints, and put them into a way of ſecurity and peace: The complaints were read and committed to examination, but no report made after five months attendance: At length it pleaſed the Lords, and many Gentry to be preſent at Court, reſolving to heare, and iſſue matters: But the trading aſſiſtants (with their friends) perceiving this buſineſſe would be now called upon, left the Court, in whoſe abſence (though thirty or forty ſtill remained) yet according to their orders, requiring ſeven Aſſiſtants at leaſt, with the Governour or his Deputy, there was not that number to make a Court, which loſt us that opportunity, and clearly taught us what to truſt too; upon which, Captaine *Sayle* and *William Golding* beſought the Parliament. The Copy of whoſe Petition was as followeth:

* *Dura quidem Provincia.*

To the Honourable, the Knights, Citizens, and Burgeſſes aſſembled in Parliament;

The Petition of *Wil. Sayle*, and *Wil. Golding*. *Humbly ſheweth*,

WHereas your Petitioners (with the Inhabitants of *Summer Iſlands*) the free-borne natives of this Kingdom, groaning under ſeverall preſſures, inconſiſtent with their native priviledges, having duly ſought redreſſe from the Company of that plantation, and waited theſe ſix months for a favourable iſſue; but, without ſucceſſe, are enforced to ſpread their ſad condition before your honours, *viz.*

1. That your Petitioners at the pleaſure of the Company (or part of them) have beene, and may againe be, reſtrained of the liberty of their perſons.

2. Your Petitioners are denyed the free diſpoſall of their proper goods.

3. Your Petitioners are burthened with an Impoſt upon their Tobaccoes (which is this yeare raiſed a third part) amounting uſually to as much (or more) then the principall yeeldeth. The company little regarding the ends therein pretended, nor are the Inhabitants ſatisfied in the diſpoſall thereof.

4. Your Petitioners complaine under exceſſive fraught ſet upon their Tobacco, and Rates upon the Merchant goods ſent them.

5. That the Deputy-governour, Captaine *Tho. Turner*, lately ſent over, refuſed to take

Itake the Oath (usuall at the enstalment of other Governours) yet summons an Assembly, who (by their Speaker) calls themselves a Parliament, gives them an Oath of secrecy. Together with them makes new Laws, and inforce them, sleight the power of Parliament, imprison, (men at pleasure;) turned out Magistrates of known integrity to this state, without, and against the known Order of this supreame Court, forbid appeals, silence Ministers, approved by the Honourable Company, and whose labours were desired by the Inhabitants, conceale good Orders, for the incouragement of honest men, and strengthens the hands of lewd persons, with many other vexatious wayes. Your Petitioners deepely resenting these grievances, humbly pray.

1 That your Petitioners may be free to transplant themselves, and substance, when providence goes before them, and bee protected in their due liberties, whiles they remaine in these Islands.

2 That liberty of free trade be granted to the Inhabitants, according to their desires, and the subscriptions of many worthy members of that Company, as appears by the papers affixed, by which also your wisdomes may discerne, whence most of these sorrowes flow.

3 That Offenders against the Parliament, and just liberties of the Inhabitants, may be put into a way of tryall.

4 That the Deputy Governour may be questioned, and (if your wisdomes see just cause) suspended, and his new elected Councell, raised by his sole power, by your wisdomes reduced, Your Petitioners (entrusted by many of the Inhabitants as to the premises) having run the hazzard of their lives, to escape the violence of a meer Arbitrary power, and wasted themselves, families and estates, in the pursuance thereof, having a ship ready to returne them to their relations.

And fearing to fall under the power of those who have already envaded whatever is deare unto them (except their lives, which are next in danger) are humbly bold to fly to your honours for just and speedy relieſe, your Petitioners refreshed with by past favours, (which they humbly acknowledge, and crave continuance of,) shall continue praying &c.

A Coppy of the Papers affixed to the Petition when presented to Parliament, the first being the Answer of the Assembly in Summer Ilands, to the Inhabitants, suing for free trade (viz,)

Summer Islands. Die Lunæ 6 Aprill. 1646.

HAving received divers Petitions from severall of the Inhabitants of these Islands, thereby craving a free trade for Tobacco, and to have priviledge to transport the same at their own pleasures, not weighing nor regarding the priviledge and royalty of the Honourable Company, after long dispute, and serious debate, and well weighing how far forth we can in justice answer your expectations in this particular; and moreover well regarding his Majesties Letters Patent, granted to the Honourable Company, we for your better satisfaction, have thought good to affixe that branch or clause, whereby we are absolutly prohibited, and debarred of this priviledge; and as we are all nearly concerned in the premises as you are, so we do hereby declare, and ingenuously promise, that if it were in our power to grant, or lawfull for us to do, &c. we should be no ways wanting, and dilatory to advance our own priviledge, and profits, and whereas it doth appeare to us, that we all groane under the excessive rates held, and set upon the goods sent hither from the Honourable Company, and that

our

our Tobacco, and goods, passeth at low rates, we shall in that behalfe use our best skill and indeavour, by enforming the Honourable Company, as well on your, as our own behalfe: to have such things reformed, as are neither for their honour, nor for our profits: not doubting of reliefe therein, when we shall, with all candor and integrity, hold forth our just grievances unto them, this wee hope will clear us from having any selfe end, or want of will and affection, in the discharge of the trust reposed in us by our Countrey: But we are bound by oath, and duty, to maintaine that power from whence we derive our owne, yet alwayes regarding our owne, so farre forth as civility, and justice will warrant it.

Signed,
John Vaugham Clerke of the Assembly.

Ordered to be read in the severall Churches of these Islands.

A Branch of the grants extracted out of the Letters Patents,

AND to the intent that the said Company, their Successors and Assignes, shall and may enjoy the full and sole benifit and profit of this our grant, according to the true intent and meaning of the same, our will and pleasure is, and by these presents for our Heirs, Successors, of our more especiall grace, certaine knowledge, and meere motion, and of our supream and absolute authority (which we forbid to be argued, disputed, or brought in question) we do straightly charge and command, all and every person, and persons, whatsoever, of what degree or condition soever, he or they or any of them be, that none of them, other then the said Company, successors, assigns, deputies, servants, factors, or the assigns of some of them, do at any time hereafter attempt, presume or go about any manner of way, directly or indirectly, to transport any monies, goods or merchandise, out of any our Kingdomes into the limits or bounds of the said *Summer Islands*, or import out of the said Islands, or any part thereof into any forreigne parts, or into any of our Kingdomes upon paine of forfeiture of all such monies, goods and merchandise, which shall be so imported, or exported contrary to the true meaning of these presents, and of the Ships and Vessells wherein the same shall be so transported, or imported to the use of the said Company, their Successors and Assignes; and upon such further paine and penalty, and imprisonment, as by the Lawes and Statutes of this our Realme of *England*, or by our Prerogative Royall, may any way be inflicted or adjudged for their contempt in that behalfe.

The Copy of another paper, affixed to the Petition, was as followeth:

Upon certaine weighty considerations presented to us, We of the Company whose names are subscribed, finde our selves obliged in point of pitty and justice to declare our free consent, that the Inhabitants of *Summer-Islands* be at liberty to dispose of their Tobacco, and other goods, to whom, and how they please for their best advantage; alwayes reserving the Rents of the Company or any members thereof, to the use of the proper landlord. *Subscribed with eighteen hands.*

Illustrations or Animadversions upon the heads of the Petition.

1. The Inhabitants have beene denyed the liberty of their persons. In a letter from the Company to Captaine *Sayle*, then Sheriffe 1638. or thereabout, under the hands of eleven of the Company, there is this streight command, We charge you from his Majestie upon like paines *viz.* (his head) neither to depart your selfe, nor to permit or suffer any other to be shipped, &c. *Illust.*

The occasion of this Order from the Company; 1. The Inhabitans of the *Summer-Islands*, had sent forth a Colony to inhabit St. *Lucea* (one of the *Caribee* Islands) and many moe straitned for want of land and liberties, intended to have transplanted thither,

ther, and had been at charges to make provision aforehand, by sending a small Pinace, and servants thither; but upon this streight command were restrained, and the Colony sent forth, for want of timely supply and ayd, were cut off by the adjacent Indians; and many by this meanes damnified in their estates and lives. The trading party of that Company foresaw that they would soone want Tenants and servants, if a way were opened to the inhabitants of *Summer-Islands* of more freedome and inlarged subsistence. Also in the government of Captaine *Woodhouse* a new oath was devised, every one was to bring forth his Tobacco, and to sweare there was all that they had made, and because Mr. *Painter*, Magistrate, refused to take that oath, and M. *Stirk* Minister, drawing up a modest Petition to the Governour for the non-imposing of it to the prejudice of the Subjects liberties, both were banished the Island; & though the Company of *London*, did not allow the sentence of banishment, yet they did make no manner of reparation unto M. *Painter* & M. *Stirke* upon those who had so censured them. *Wil. Righton* is at this present under the sentence of banishment by Captaine *Turner* the now Deputy governour, because he refused to have his children baptized by Mr. *Vyner*, though the said *Righton*, belongs not to any of those tribes to whom M. *Vyner* was sent to take charge of, *An.* 1647. by the now governour a councell of War was called, and one *Feadle* was judged (without any other tryall) to be tyed to the Gallowes, for words (as it is said) he should speake concerning the Governour tending to muteny; Mr. *Painter* Magistrate, first wronged, and after railed upon, by one *Edwards* of the Company in an open letter sent to *Summer-Islands*, Mr. *Painter* for returning this answer; Mr. *Edwards* the Oyle-man hath done me much wrong, the Lord reward him according to his deeds; was judged by the Company to suffer corporall paines, an exemplary punishment. In the government of Captaine *Tucker*, a silly boy, whose name was *Deane*, for stealing a piece of cheese, was condemned to dye, and executed.

Illust. 2. The Inhabitants may not dispose their proper goods. Instance in Tobacco (the onely staple commodity and means of support to the Inhabitants) which the Company straightly forbids to be disposed of, otherwise then to their Magazeen ship, witnesse their knowne practice, and [frequent orders in their letters to their Governours and Officers; one of their letters hath it thus, The Governour & Sheriffe, are to be required (as formerly) not to permit any trade at all, either with natives or strangers, nor any Ship or Vessell to come and remaine there longer then the space of --- dayes, and that onely to take in water and provision to supply them in case of necessity and not otherwise. Also in another Letter of the Company, they expresly forbid the Island to trade upon any tearmes with *New England*, who at that time wanted cattell, which we could spare, and they had such commodities as we wanted; but neither they, nor we might enjoy the liberty of mutuall commerce, surely this savours of want of bowels towards them, and envy to the good of our poore Colony. Witnesse the Company approving under ten of their hands, their Sheriffes act in ceasing the Tobacco traded for by a Dutchman, 1636. for such power the Company gives to the Mr. of the Magazeen ship, requiring the Governour and Sheriffe to be assistant to them; likewise Captaine *Robert Dennis* by Commission from the Company, *An.* 1643. ceased some three or foure thousand of Tobacco, traded for by a Merchant of *Barnstable* ship, with the Inhabitants for shoos, stockings, lockram (commodities which the Inhabitants wanted to cover their nakednesse, and the Magazeen ship brought not that yeare, whose loading (except that which she left by the way at *Barbados*, was chiefly salt and *Madera* wine) and though offer was made by the Merchant to pay penny per pound which the Company claims as their due, yet unlesse three halfpence for fraught was added, *Dennis* would not suffer him

Mr. Steele *hath the originall letters under the hands of severall of the Company.*

him to carry away the Tobacco but posseſt himſelfe of it as forfeited to the Company, this practice had almoſt put the Iſland into a muteny, who hereby enraged, threatned Captain *Dennis* ſhip; but by the wiſdome and vigilancy of Cap *Sayl* our Governour, the people were appeaſed; yea the deſire of trade from M. *Copeland* Miniſter, in a letter to the Company, hath muteny in it, ſo the Court judged in their anſwer to his witneſſe; Captaine *Turners* words at his firſt comming, who proteſted in the hearing of many, that if any Inhabitant ſhould refuſe to ſend their Tobacco, home in the Magazeen ſhip, he would ſeize on the Tobacco, and impriſon their perſons; at this preſent yeare 1647. he commanded his counſell to take notice what Tobacco every man had, and returne the names of ſuch as ſhould refuſe to ſend it home in the Magazeen ſhip. Inſtance in other goods, *Anno* 1636. or thereabout. At a full and honourable Court, liberty was granted unto the Inhabitants to build a Pinace or two, to trade with the Plantations for ſuch commodities as they had (excepting Tobacco) the yeare following (when ſome of the Inhabitants to their great coſt and hazzard had prepared a veſſell for that purpoſe) the Company or part of them, ſent expreſſe command, 1 That no perſon ſhould be tranſplanted, as above, 2. no live cattle, 3. no proviſion (but upon limited conditions, incompatible with merchandizing, ſhould be ſent away. 'Tis as though they had ſaid, you ſhall build a veſſell (if you will) to looke upon, and undoe your ſelves, but ſhall have no encouragement to employ her. That it was thus ordered by the *Bermuda* Court, their orders in Mr. *Steels* hand can witneſſe.

See anſw. of Comp. to Mr. Copl. Mr. Steel.

The deniall of this freedome of a Pinace once granted, and before revoked, built, was probably the occaſion of the loſſe of *Lucea*, the lives of many there, and hopes of that plantation, and therein, that addition of honour and revenue to the Engliſh Nation: for the Colony ſent forth thither from *Summer-Iſlands*, engaged their undertakers to ſupply them with men, and other neceſſaries, which was that chiefe cauſe of building that Pinace, which (before finiſhed) might not be imployed to helpe the Iſland, or them at *Lucea*. After this, ſome of the Inhabitants, craving the concurrence of ſome of the Company of *London*, bought a ſhip, and furniſhed her with a Cargoe of goods, fit for the plantation of *Summer-Iſlands*, which when the Company underſtood, they made a ſtrict order, forbidding the ſhip (now ready to ſet ſayle) to come at that plantation, till firſt their Magazeen ſhip had been there; the Traders feared ſhe would gather up the Dollards which the Spaniards left there the yeare before, and marre their Market, the hindring this Ships comming to *Bermuda*, was a great prejudice to that Country, and the undoing of many owners there; for miſſing that opportunity the ſhip was loſt to them both in hopes and principall. Inſtance in Oringes and Lemons, with which the Country abounds, and moſt periſh for want of uſe; even theſe may not be diſpoſed of, untill the *London* Ship (which uſually comes out of ſeaſon) be firſt ſerved, nor may the Inhabitants diſpoſe of their owne Cedar, but by order from the Company; nor any of the Inhabitants have wine, or ſtrong-waters ſent them but by order of their Court.

Furthermore the Companies cenſure of Mr. *Painter* to pay 40 li. Ster. unto Mr. *Edwards* oyleman (beſides corporall and exemplary puniſhment) for writing to Mr. *Edwards* as before; yea the Court have ordered that planters in the Iſland might be prevented of buying ſhares, deſiring rather to keep them racked Tennants, and perpetuall ſervants, and yet the Inhabitants who are free of the Company have no more priviledge in the Iſland, then the moſt wretched Tennant. Thus the trading party ſerve themſelves of all the profits, which that poore Iſland, with the induſtry of the Plantours produceth. The orders of the Company in the hand of Maſter *Steele* can wit-

witnesse, I have not wronged them in the premises.

3. To the third Complaint, Impost upon Tobacco, formerly three halfpence, since one penny *per* pound, this yeares 1647. three halfpence. First, this Impost was never granted by the consent of the Inhabitants, that I can gather. Secondly, protested against by divers of the Company. Thirdly, and why may it not be lawfull (if the trading party will vote it) to take 2 *d. per* pound impost, yea the whole balke of Tobacco; yea our beds, lands, servants, children; truly, they and their now Governour are agreed to take all, as you shall heare afterwards. The ends pretended, not regarded.

First, the Commanders in the Island, not supplyed with that number of servants, which the booke of Orders, and the Companies Law allow.

Secondly, but two Ministers, who have salleries paid them, to wit, 40 li. *per annum*, when yet there are nine publicke Churches (besides the chappell) to be supplyed.

Thirdly, the congregation, with the Pastor and Teacher, are compelled to pay Impost out of their Tobacco towards the maintenance of the universall Ministers sent by the Company, when yet they attend not their Ministery, nor were they sent to the most of them, nor hath the Pastor or Teacher the least allowance from the Company: truly the singing men and Porters under *Artaxerxes* in the time of the Babylonian captivity found better usage; for it was decreed concerning them, that is should not be lawfull to impose tol, tribute, or custome upon them *Ezra* 7.24.

Fourthly, no considerable quantity of Ammunition and Armes, to secure so considerable a Garrison. And all the use the Ammunition serveth to (for present) is to keep in awe the Independents; for when Captaine *Sayle* was in the Harbour, with a small ship, with some twenty men Captaine *Turner* kept a guard, pretending feares, but when a Spanish ship was wrackt, and a hundred of Souldiers, & Sea-men came a shoar; and most of the Inhabitants of ability gone aboard, no appearance of a guard. Captaine *Turner* had another game in chase, the nine Hogs-heads of corne paid him by the Country for the former guard, is a trifle to what he rakes now from the Spaniards, without regard of justice or civility.

* *But dismist the guard before the pretence of fear was removed.*

5. Debts not paid by the Company, no satisfying account given the Country. The Company had in stocke about *Anno* 1637. eleven hundred pound Sterlin, were in debt *Anno* 1647. eighteen hundred pound have had yearlly for impost upon the Tobacco, three hundred, foure hundred, it may be five hundred pound Sterlin; wee know of little in comparison laid out for the good of the Countrey, or honour of the Company, and yet a new taxe is levyed with pretence to pay debts: The Company will never be out of debt, whiles they know to pay themselves out of the Tobacco of the Country. Captaine *Butler* when his time of government was expired, comming to *London*, sued the Company, and recovered damage, the which was levyed upon the shares, even theirs who had done no wrong. In *Anno* 1635. or thereabouts; the Traders of the Company bought the Plantors Tobacco, and agreed for a price; but the price of Tobacco falling, they turned it upon the Plantors, to their exceeding damage.

Fourthly, excessive fraught, to wit, three halfpence *per* pound; first, the Tobacco for the seven or eight yeares have seldome yeelded more to the Plantors in the Island, Secondly, other Plantations, *viz. Virginia, Christophers, &c.* who trade with what ships they will, pay not above penny *per* pound, and yet the distance between them and *England* is greater. Excessive rates set on Merchants goods. This the paper affixed to the Petition witnesseth, as the sense of the Inhabitants, yea of the Assembly, the choice

choice friends of the trading party: nor will men wonder, who consider the state of the Inhabitants who must trade with no ships but the Company, and must have their goods, or goe naked, and at their prices, and the Company ship their Tobacco, or it must perish, and at their price too, not allowing in goods for Tobacco above two pence *per* pound, which at first penny amounts not to above one penny *per* pound; yet I must not wrong the trading Company, for *Anno* 1647. they sent little or no goods to supply the Countrey, their Cargo and Purser stayed at *Barbados*, where is better trading, and sent the ship to make a fraught out of the Countries Tobacco.

The truth is, had not providence put the inhabitants into a way of weaving Cotten, which they buy for Porke, Beefe, and Fish, of one ship or other (upon hard tearmes) trading between them and *Barbadoes*, the Inhabitants had long since turned Adamites out of necessity. I have heard some passionately professe that if the Company would take care to feed and cloath them and theirs, they should bore their eares, and they would be their servants for ever: and now let the world judge what Masters they serve. I could adde much more, and tell the world, of particular wrongs, offered by some members of that Company, to the poore Plantors here, but I spare them, as not the miscarriage of the body, with whom I have to deale, and not with the body neither, but with the feet and toes of it.

I proceed now to reflect on the government in the Island, as it lyes in order in the Petition, confining my selfe to the time since Captaine *Turner* was sent over by the trading party, who being one of them, acts their principles, and from beginning told us of private instructions, under which (its like) we have suffered much, though not under that plea, but by an assumed power, and a high hand. I shall branch the fifth head into particulars:

Qu. 47. *A crooked barke fellow brought a private letter, and had* 5 l. *allowed.*

First, Captaine *Turner* refused to take his oath at his enstalment, which other Governors never did, this will be witnessed by men of fidelity; if he hath since taken it before his counsell in a clandestine manner, it is unknowne to us, and I suppose (if done at all) it was neare two yeares after he tooke his place. I meane not the oath of Supremacy, Allegeance, or Covenant, but that proper to the Deputy-governour of *Summer-Islands*. His excuse was, he tooke it in *England*, but that was denyed by the Deputy and Secretary of that Company in open Court. 1. *Branch of the fifth generall head.*

Secondly, calls an assembly, pretending the Company so ordered it; but that also was denyed, and the lawes of the Company say, the second yeare it may be lawfull for the Governour to call an Assembly, he within twenty dayes. 'Tis probable this plot was laid at *Barbados*, where Captaine *Turner* meeting with Captaine *Parker* (who not long before stole away from *Bermuda* thither, and since (comming well from his companions) in his way homeward, dyed of an impostume, blood issuing out of his mouth, eares, and nostrills.) The grand ingenier of trouble to the Congregation in *Summer-Islands*, put Captaine *Turner* upon this designe, and named the men fittest to act therein, who for the most part were made choice of. This Assembly thus met, call themselves a grave Assembly. Truly there were many grave and grey headed drunkards of that * Convention, who proved the grave of piety, justice, and civility. But this is too low a style for them, therefore (by their Speaker) they are called a Parliament, and by the Governour summoned downe under the name of Burgesses, that under this pretence, without respect to the Parliament of *England* or Company under whom they stand, they might exercise an independent power over the Congregation. *Bran.* 2.

* *Concilium* or rather *Conciliabulum.*

Thirdly, being met, an oath of Secrecie is imposed, *viz.*

You shall sweare by all meanes to conceale the secrets of the house, and not impart *Bran.* 3.

or discover, either by word or writing, or by any other meanes to any one not being of this present Assembly, the passages or carriage of any affaires or busineſſe that shall be treated of, and disputed during the whole time of the sitting, and continuance of the said Assembly, &c.

I shall not tell you how their *grave wisdomes*, spent seven or eight dayes in little else then finding out who it was should say a *Cole merchant* was come our Governour, as though this had been a greater disparagement, *Then to feed Hogs and Ducks*, cleanse ponds, and such like drudgery. I proceed to higher trans-actions.

Fourthly, they make new Lawes *viz.* of purpose to snare the Congregation. *Longson* of the Assembly at Assizes, when one of the Congregation pleaded he had transgressed no Law of *England*, answered, you have transgressed our Lawes, otherwise we could have had no advantage against you.

Exam. 4.

An Act for casting out Independent Magistrates and Commanders.

Act. WHereas by common experience we finde, that where people will not readily and chearfully obey the Lawes, Orders, Rules, Government, under which they live, undoubtedly there must follow upon that state and people, inevitable misery and confusion: And the rather when the Magistrates, and those who fill the seats of justice shall apparently withstand the same. Now whereas we the Inhabitants of the *Summer-Islands* have at this present many Magistrates and publicke Officers placed over us, members of the Independent Church, and will not yeeld obedience to the established fundamentall Lawes of the King, nor yet submit to the Ordinance of the high Court of Parliament, nor direction of the honourable Company.

Nota. *Audactur calumniare &. aliquid adherebit.* To this day our adversaries canot prove any of these things against us.

We the Generall Assembly, for prevention of so great disturbance which we have cause to feare may suddenly fall upon us, by the power of those Magistrates, Independent Covenanters desire it should be enacted; And by the power and authority of the Generall Assembly, be it enacted, That no manner of person, or persons, who hath or have entred into Covenant, and is admitted a member of the Independent Church, being at this present, a publick Officer or Magistrate, and being hereof lawfully convicted, by proof, or his, or their owne confession, shall *ipso facto* be discharged from his or their office or offices of command, and others chosen to their places by this Assembly,

Joh. Vaughan,
Secretary.

Dat. 14. *April* 1646.

This Act was forthwith put in execution, before any crime was objected or proved against them whom it did concerne.

Die Jovis 16. *July* 1646.

(a) *At the former sitting, they*

WHereas at the (a) last sitting of this present Generall Assembly, it was amongst other things, enacted, That all manner of Ministers, and other persons, inhabiting, and residing within these Islands should conforme themselves in all things touching the

the publicke worſhip of God in obedience to the Directory of the Parliament of England: And whereas Mr. *Nath. White*, Mr. *Patrick Copland*, and Mr. *Wil. Golding*, and divers other perſons adhering to them, have moſt preſumptuouſly in contempt of authority taken upon them to congregate themſelves together in a publicke place of meeting, and there ſet up a new forme of Diſcipline according to their owne wills, not acquainting the Governour and Councell here; although by their petition to the Honourable Houſes of Parliament, they promiſe obedience to the Civill Magiſtrate, (*b*) which practice of theirs is againſt the Lawes and government of this place, hereby drawing unto them many of the Inhabitants from their Pariſh Churches, upon ſuch dayes and times, as our faithfull Miniſters, now ſent unto us by the honourable Company are exerciſing the Miniſtery in preaching Gods word unto the people, and have likewiſe received into their Church-covenant divers and ſundry perſons contrary to all Lawes and rules of government, which doings of theirs, if not timely prevented, muſt and will be deſtructive to the long eſtabliſhed peace of theſe Iſlands.

roſe and adjourned not, and yet they ſit againe as though c'oathed with full power.

(b) *They had allowance from the Company, and by an order of Parliament*

Wherefore this Grave and Generall Aſſembly do order, and by the authority and power of the ſame be it ordered, that the ſaid M. *White*, Mr. *Copland*, and Mr. *Golding*, and other members of their congregation; nor all, nor any of them, doe from henceforth preſume to practice, or ſet up any other diſcipline or order in Church-government, other then what is commanded by Parliament and Directory ſet forth unto us. And we doe further order by the Authority aforeſaid, that no manner of perſon or perſons inhabiting within theſe Iſlands ſhall or doe hereafter preſume, to enter into Covenant with them to be of their congregation, nor bring in their children to be baptized, or any marriage ſolemnized by them, they being not in our judgements, capable to performe the miniſteriall function or adminiſter either Sacraments. Having (*c*) laid downe their *Miniſtery*, and declared themſelves to be but Lay-men, but theſe duties ſhall be performed by our *Miniſters*, already conformable to the Ordinance aforeſaid. And likewiſe be it further ordered that no perſon or perſons inhabiting within theſe Iſlands, ſhall abſent themſelves from their owne Pariſh-Churches, unleſſe to ſuch Churches where our *Miniſters* ſhall be then teaching upon ſuch paine and puniſhment as ſhall be thought fit upon high contemners of Authority, (*d*) as to the Governour and Councell for the time being, ſhall be thought expedient.

(c) *They laid downe only what they had from the Biſhops.*

(d) *They proclaime to the world that they governe arbitrarily.*

John Vaughan
Secretary.

Ordered to be publiſhed throughout theſe Iſlands.

This Act was ſent forth with a Proclamation to put life into it; which was as followeth:

By the Governour and Councel, July 18. An. 1646.

Whereas it pleaſed Almighty God to deſigne me for this place, and the honourable Company repoſed the truſt and government of theſe *Iſlands* into my hands: I have hitherto endeavoured with all mildneſſe and meekneſſe of ſpirit, to gaine a right underſtanding in and to the manners and orders of the people in theſe Iſlands, and have (through Gods providence) diſcerned divers ill-affected people, which are refractory to the Lawes, and long eſtabliſhed Government of Church and State here eſtabliſhed, and obſerved by my Worthy Predeceſſors, in conſideration whereof, wee the Governours and Councell, for the prevention of the evill that may enſue, do by this my Proclamation declare unto all his *Majeſties* loving Subjects inhabiting within

in these Islands, that we doe expect the like conformity unto all his Majesties Lawes and Statutes, and to the Acts and Orders made and established to be observed in these Islands, as our predecessours might have, had, or should have; asserting all those that shall persist in their wilfull disobedience to the power and authority derived from the honourable Company by vertue of the letter patents granted by his Majesty King *Iames* of blessed memory unto them, and from them unto us; to proceed against (e) such, to the full measure of their demerits, being too sensible how my lenity and milde behaviour towards some, hath been sleighted, and experimentally too to much abused; But for such as will endeavour to live in the feare of God, and in obedience to the Lawes, I shall both by my state and person endeavour to maintaine them in their rights and just priviledges; and whereas (with griefe of heart I speake it) there is a party in these Islands, that have withdrawn themselves, not onely from the rules of civil Government, which are prescribed and warranted unto us to walke by, but also have of their owne inventions set up, and imposed a discipline, and bound them in covenant to observe the same without my (f) privity or consent, which rule and order, or rather indeed disorder (as I may justly tearme it) being not warrantable by the Parliament, and Synod in *England*, but otherwise commanded by that Authority and Directory set forth to us. Wherefore I have been enforced, with the advice and consent of my Councell and Assembly, to make and set forth an order, thereby to declare the danger of such unnaturall division, tending to the subversion of the knowne Lawes, and orders of Church and State. And I doe hereby in his *Majesties* name, will and require, all the Inhabitants of these Islands, to yeeld due obedience to the same, as they and every of them may avoyd the penalty due to contemners of Authority, and as they tender the peace and quietnesse of this Colony. And moreover, I charge, and require all Counsellours, Justices, Church-officers, Constables, Head-boroughs, and all, and every his *Majesties* Subjects to yeeld obedience to the order annexed, and to all the Laws and Acts made, and set forth in and by this present Assembly, and all such as shall be (g) disloyall to authority, or disobedient herein, I charge and require the Officers aforesaid respectively in their severall tribes, to be vigilant and carefull to take notice of all such as shall in the least degree oppose this my Command; and them, and every of them, of what condition or quality soever they be, to bring them before me to be proceeded against as contemners of the Laws, and utter enemies to the peace and safety of this Colony.

I doe further require, that this Proclamation be published in all the Churches and publicke meetings, together with the order above mentioned. Given under my hand at my house, at S. *Georges* the day and yeare aforesaid.

Tho. Turner.

Summum jus, summa injuria.

(e) *bona verba.*

(f) *The congregation was gathered before Cap. Turners governour-ship at least two years.*

(g) *Cap. Turner Kings it bravely in his expressions.*

The intelligent Reader will easily discerne the contradictions betweene the Order and Proclamations, the Order requires obedience to the Directory of Parliament; the Proclamation, conformity to the Lawes, Acts, and Orders established to be observed by his Worthy predecessours; now in his predecessours time the Directory was not in being, but the Episcopall way. They made a Law forbidding rests upon the Sabbath day.

A Proclamation May 19. An. 1647.

By the Governour,

WHereas an Order of Assembly bearing date, *Die Jovis*, 16. of *July* 1646. with a Proclamation thereunto annexed, and ordered to be published in all the Churches of

of the Islands, thereby requiring conformity to that order, and to all other orders here established to be observed as (h) a Law: And for as much as since the publishing hereof, I have manifestly found divers ill-affected people (contemners of our government) have not onely sleighted our authority, but have and (i) do contemn the power and authority of the honourable Company and Parliament, and have drawne themselves from the discipline, and orders established to be observed in our Church-government, and ever since continued in disobedience and contempt of our Lawes, and Government, endeavouring the subversion of the same to the continuall disturbance of our peace (k) and quietnesse in these Islands. In tender consideration whereof, and out of zeale to Gods glory, and the hallowing of his Sabbath, which of late hath been too much polluted, and blasphemed, by reason of our unnatural division: I do therefore in his Majesties name, and by vertue of the power given to me by the honourable Company and Parliament, streightly will and require all the Justices, Constables, and all other officers, with all, and every his Majesties subjects to take speciall notice of the aforesaid Order, and Proclamation. And that every Justice in his respective tribe, doe immediately apprehend all manner of person, and persons, that have gone contrary to that Order or Proclamation, or hereafter shall do contrary to the same. And the persons so offending to binde over with two sufficient sureties to answer their contempt at the next Generall Assizes, and such as shall not give sureties, that they be forthwith committed to prison, to be proceeded against according (m) to their demerits. And of this I shall require a continuall and strict account, as you, and every of you will answer the contrary at your peril.

Dated 19. *May*, 1647. *Tho. Turner.*

Ordered to be published the next Sabbath day.

(h) *This mock Parliament assumes legislative power.*

(i) *Wo to them who make lyes their refuge.*

(k) *The wicked are like the troubled sea.*

(m) *And the governour, and his counsell must be the judges.*

An Act for the suppressing of all such persons, that under the name of Independents have separated themselves from the Discipline which is held forth unto us in these Islands.

WHereas through the providence of Almighty God, This poore Plantation from the foundation hitherto, hath enjoyed, and hath been partaker of many gracious blessings, whereby every poore Planter might, and that (through the goodnesse of the same God) may sit and enjoy (n) under their owne vines, while divers other Countries through (o) Apostacy and Rebellion, doe welter in their owne blood. And as the Lord, who is just in all his wayes, and righteous in all his judgements, doth threaten us likewise, intimating thereby, that by reason of our sinnes wee have deserved the same measure of punishment to fall upon us. (The Lord of his mercy prevent it.)

(n) *Their owne language.*

(o) Nota.

And whereas likewise the Lord hath ordained wholesome Lawes and Orders for the punishment of vice (p) and for the maintenance of true Religion and vertue. In tender consideration thereof, and in regard of the trust reposed in us, and confirmed upon us by the fundamentall Lawes, and laudable customes of the Kingdome of *England*, we have taken notice of sundry persons men and women that have withdrawne themselves in their (q) allegiance from his Majesty in their obedience from the honourable Parliament and Company, and from the Lawes and Ordinances thence derived, and here established to be observed in Church and State.

(p) *Independency.*

(q) *O yee sons of men how long will you seek after leasing.* Ps. 4.

It

It is therefore by this present Assembly enacted, and by power and authority thereof, be it enacted, That all and every person and persons which shall not immediatly after the publishing hereof conforme themselves and be obedient to our Laws, That by vertue hereof from henceforth they be reputed and esteemed (r) as malignants, and utter enemies to the peace and quiet government of these Islands.

(r) See how their estate and lives are in danger.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That each Counsellour in his or their severall Trybes, with the assistance of the Constables, and as many other as shall be needfull, doe demand and take sufficient sureties for the good behaviour from every person and persons, that shall refuse conformity, the principall in 5 l. Ster. and the sureties in 50 s. a peece. And such as shall refuse to give such security, that the Counsellour aforesaid do seize their estates, as opposers and contemners of our Lawes and Government.

And be it also enacted, that from henceforth no publicke meetings or Conventicles be frequented, either at the Mill-house, or any other place in these Islands, upon paine of 20 s. for every one so offending, to be levied for publicke uses, and such as shall not be able to pay, to be sent down to worke at the Colony, untill the said 20 s. be satisfied, provided that family duties be not prohibited or neglected: And for their disobedience to our former Orders; We also enact, and by the same power be it enacted, That every person and persons that hath so offended shall be forthwith seized, according to an Ordinance of Parliament, dated *Westminster Aug.* 23. 1645. (s) provided alwayes that it is the sense and meaning of this present Assembly, That all manner of person and persons, that shall yeeld obedience to civill authority, and live henceforth in all godlinesse and honesty, shall have protection, immunity, and freedome from all trouble and molestation, by or from any ceremony, or imposition in matters of Gods worship, according to the Order of the right Honourable Committee of Lords and Commons ordained for the Plantations.

(s) Contradiction.

And we doe further order by Authority aforesaid, that this present Act be forthwith published, observed, and duely put in execution upon the penalty before specified on the delinquents part, and under the paine and penalty of 5 l. Ster. to be imposed on every officer that shall be remisse or slack therein, and to be cashered from his or their places; provided nevertheless that it is our intent and meaning that this Act be in force untill the honourable Company by due order of their Court, shall alter or make void the same; any Law, Order heretofore made to the contrary thereof, or to any part or parcell thereof in any wise notwithstanding.

Joh. Vaughan, Secret.
Charles Whittenhall, Speak.

June 25. 1647.

I desire wise men would weigh what that passage import (Apostacy, and Rebellion) whether Apostacy relates not to the Episcopall way, and Rebellion, to the just defence of Parliament against an open Enemy? Also the act provides that in some case, the whole estate be ceised, and yet after a forfeiture of 20 s. is added, or vassallage adjudged in case not able to pay.

(r) This looke like tyranny.

An Act for enforcing such as either carelessely neglect the Sacrament of the Lords Supper or wilfully refuse to have their children baptized.

WHereas there are now amongst us too many men and women, who savour of Anabaptizme, and doe either neglect, or out of wilfulnesse refuse to have their children baptized: It is therefore enacted by the present Assembly, and by the power thereof be it enacted, That from henceforth every person or persons upon the next Sabbath or Sermon-day within the Tribe, wherein any childe is, or shall hereafter be borne, shall bring their children to be baptized, if conveniency permit, but if conveniency will not permit, then such children shall be brought the next Sermon-day following, upon pain of 5 l Ster. to be levied upon every offender for generall uses, provided that this reach not to the baptizing of Bastards or Negroes children. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, that every person and persons, doe receive the Sacrament of the Lords Supper in his, or their now Tribe wherein they dwell, at such times, as by our Ministers they shall be (u) prepared for the same, and such as shall negligently refuse to come to be examined, and to receive at the hands of our Ministers, M. *William Vyner*, or M. *Tho. Hooper*, who are for the time being, or such other Ministers as shall be conformable to the Directory, such person or persons being found capable, shall be lyable to one (w) months imprisonment, without bayle or mainprise; and if he or they will not then conforme, 40 s. shall be levyed for every such default for publicke uses.

(u) Nota.

(w) Fides suadenda est non imperanda.

John Vaughan, Secret.

An Act for the establishing the Right worshipfull our Governour to have the command of the Castle in his owne hands, and all the land, and commodities and profits thereunto belonging.

TAking into consideration the weaknesse of our Castle and Forts, which are the keyes and Bulwarks of these Islands, against a forreigne and domesticke Enemy, the sad experience of our present condition being sufficient motives to rouse up, and to shake off dull security, to use all lawfull meanes for the preservation of this poor Plantation in peace and quiet government. It is therefore enacted by this present Generall Assembly, and by the power and authority of the same be it enacted, that our present Governour doe continue the command of the Kings Castle in his owne power, with all the land, servants, and other priviledges, and commodities to the same belonging, and to place there such Officers under him, as he shall finde both faithfull, and able to discharge the trust, and to dispose of severall Forts, to his discretion, being of right belonging to him as he is by Commission Captaine Generall of all these Islands, provided alwayes that this Act be in force untill we receive answer of the last Generall letters, or untill the honourable Company doe alter or make void the same, any Order or Commission heretofore had, or which (x) hereafter may intrench the honourable Resolution to the said letters in any wise notwithstanding.

John Vaughan Secret.
Charles Whitehall Speaker.

June 25. An. 1647.

(x) Though from the power of Parliament

Thus I have given the world an account of some of the Lawes enacted by this Grave Assembly, leaving the godly-wise to judge of them; We now proceed.

They

Bran.6. They enforce these Lawes, viz. by their sole power. Instance, 1. The Magistrates under the odium of Independents (though standing by power of Parliament & Company) are *ipso facto* discharged of their place, and others chosen by the Governour and his councell. Instance *Andrew Bromlow*, *Samuel Wise*, *William Reighton*, had their cattle distrained upon the breach of that Act, requiring the baptizing Infants, *supra*. M *Fenor*, and one *Phillip Clemons* wife, were sent downe as prisoners to the Governour, for not frequenting their Parish Church. The whole Congregation, and their friends, keeping a Fast at their usuall place of meeting, upon a day appointed by the Governour (but the Governour not approving that place) by warrant commanded them to Towne, who going together in their boats, he would not suffer them to land, but sent his Mart all to chuse out some ten of them, whom he detained prisoners eight dayes, and when he dismist them, he confined them, and the rest of the Congregation to their owne Plantations, withall binding them over to answer it at the Assizes, onely reserving to them the liberty of fisting, and hearing the word.

Bran.7. Imprisons men at pleasure. Instance Lieutenant *John Davis*, who was by the censure of the house committed close prisoner, and cast forth of the Assembly, for saying that what the Assembly did, was of no force till confirmed by the Company. They pretended this was a breach of the oath of Secresy, when yet they be the expresse words of the Companies Printed Lawes, which all the Inhabitants are bound to take notice of. This *Davis* was not for their turne, though no Independent, therefore they sought this occasion against him. Instance the imprisonment of M. *Wilkinson*, M. *Reyner*, M. *More* one whole month, protesting against the Assemblies meeting a second time, and others of their proceedings at first sitting; and because the world shall see what was done by those Magistrates, had no mutiny in it: I shall give you a copy of their protest, and the Assemblies censure thereupon, viz.

Right Worshipfull Governour,

WHereas your warrants are issued forth to command all such persons who are under the name of Burgesses, to tender their attendance at *Georges* Towne, pretending their meeting to be for the ordering things tending to the safety of this Island, we of your Councell whose names are subscribed, do crave leave of your Worship, to deliver our judgements of the same.

1. We conceive, that this which you call an Assembly, to be no other but an Innovation, having neither Precept nor Order, from the honourable Company, nor president in this Island for it.

2. That in the former meerings of these persons now conveened, was handled, maintained, and (as they would have it) acted, things absolutely contradictory to Order of Parliament, and the honourable Company.

3. Rumor being spread by some of these parties, that at this meeting, they will quite put downe the preaching of the word, by those faithfull Ministers of Christ, M. *White*, M. *Copland*, and M. *Golding*, though by Parliament and honourable Company allowed.

4. Certaine of those persons now conveened, insinuating into your Worships, that the whole Countrey (with urgency) solicited this meeting, which we finde not to be according to truth, with much more which we forbeare to relate till a hearing before the High Court of Parliament, and Honourable Company in *England*

be

be made, to which we appeale, and in the meane time declare we may not, we dare not (for the glory of God) the safety of this Island, and our just obedience to the trust by higher powers repoſed in us) comply with this your meeting, nor the putting into execution any thing that there ſhall be, or heretofore hath beene by them agitated, till heard and confirmed by the honourable Company in *England*, who have not been defective to expreſſe their minds in that point to that purpoſe. And as by neceſſity enforced, doe crave your Worſhips protection for our peaceable being in this place, till we, or ſuch of us as by the mercy of God ſhall receive opportunity for tranſporting our ſelves unto the Honourable Court of Parliament and Company, for redreſſe of ſuch grievances raiſed and fomented by thoſe perſons now conveened; and humbly pray we may in behalfe of the Parliament and Company, have liberty to take ſuch atteſtations, as may be needfull for the maintenance of the premiſes.

Subſcribed,

July 21. 1646. *Wil. Sayle.* *Wil. Wilkinſon:*
Wil. Reyner. *Joſeph More.*

The Aſſemblies cenſure upon this paper, July 13. 1646.

UPon diſpute of a ſcandalous paper brought in as a charge againſt the power and proceedings of this Aſſembly under the hands of Captaine *Sayle*, Mr. *Reaner* Sheriffe, Mr. *Wilkinſon*, and Mr. *Moore*, the ſaid Mr. *Reyner* ſtanding to juſtifie the ſame, to the derogation of the power of Parliament of *England*, the power and priviledge of the Honourable Company, and the ſubverſion of the government of this place, upon (e) mature debate had of the premiſes, it was voted and ordered by the whole Aſſembly, that M. *Reyner* ſhould be committed to the Marſhalſey during the pleaſure of this Aſſembly and be ſuſpended from bearing office in this Iſland, with reference to the Honourable Company, Mr. *Wilkinſon*, and Mr. *Moore*, being ſeverally examined did likewiſe, in contempt of the Court, and power thereof juſtifie the ſame paper, and contrary to their oaths refuſe their aſſiſtance, and voluntarily deſerted their places, thereupon were both cenſured by the generall vote, *ut ſupra*.

(e) *Not halfe an houre.*

John Vaughan Secret.

Let wiſe men judge what weake Logicians theſe Grave Aſſembly be, who take in more into the concluſion, then the premiſes will beare. We proceed,

Impriſoned one *Watkins*, upon ſuſpicion of crime, whereof he had been formerly acquitted at an open Aſſizes, nor could the Grave Aſſembly faſten any new matter upon him, but after ſome dayes impriſonment diſmiſt him. Inſtance the impriſoning of Mr. *White*, themſelves cannot ſay for what; one whiles they pretend words ſpoken by him, in dereogation to the Company, which (if ſpoken) would not beare an action at Common law, to which Mr. *White* appealed, under this pretence he was priſoner fifteen weeks. After ſome reſpite M. *White* was againe impriſoned ſix weeks, the pretence I know not, after (their malice being reſtleſſe) there is a ſpeciall warrant (without any name) iſſued forth. It runs thus, You ſhall apprehend and ſend downe to priſon, the firſt, and ſo the ſecond that preach at the *Mill* (ſo they in ſcorne call the place where the Congregation meeteth) who yet refuſe to allow them ſo much as the Chappell to exerciſe in) by vertue of this nameleſſe warrant, Mr. *White* upon a Lords day was apprehended by the Head-burrow of *Pages* Tribe (who a few weeks before was tyed to the Gallowes for pretended words of mutiny.) Who, aſſiſted with ſome twenty

Apprentices of *Pagets* Tribe, sent Mr. *White* to prison, where he remained for severall weekes; since that the Governour and Councell have fancied concealment of treason against him, for words as they pretend spoken in his hearing some foure yeare since; and upon this colour they keep him prisoner, notwithstanding Captaine *Turner* offered to give Mr. *White* his (*a*) liberty, if he would be bound to wave the care of the Congregation; and now the Governour speakes like himselfe, and professe the quarrell to be against the Gospell; at the next (*b*) Councell table, they order Mr. *White* should bee sent home prisoner, whom I leave to make relation of the insufferable wrongs done him, and the shields of the earth to right him against such high oppression. Instance, The imprisoning of *Robert Nalton* seven weeks, because he would not be dispossessed by the Governours warrant, of that house and land, on which he lived, but appealed to the Assizes, for a legall triall; during the time of whose imprisonment: another was possest of the land, and house, and all the goods therein; nor might the said *Nalton* bee released out of prison, till he would submit to the Governours order under his hand, or be bound to his good behaviour, the later he was forced unto. If I mistake not, this proceeding was not onely Arbitrary, but hath Tyranny in it. Instance, the close and streight imprisoning of Mr. *Kestaven*; and fining him 50 l. for presenting, and Mr. *Reyner jun.* in like manner for writing a Petition, for the satisfaction of the world about this proceed. I shall give a copy of the Petition, with the Governours answer, as followeth:

(*a*) Who now is the best subjects

(*b*) Councell-tables are the law of the Iland, where quicquid libet, licet. Pet.

To the Right Worshipfull Captaine Thomas Turner *Governour, and Captaine Generall of these Islands, with the worshipfull his Councell.*

The humble Petition of certaine Inhabitants of the Summer-Islands.

Submissively sheweth.

THat whereas the Honourable Court of Parliament at *Westminster* in *England*, have by their high power and authority granted licence unto M. *Nath. White*, and to all that shall adjoyne themselves unto him, to exercise the liberty of conscience in matters of Gods worship, with all immunities and priviledges thereunto, desiring the honourable Committee in power for the government of the Plantations in *America* (whereof the state of *England* takes the *Summer-Islands* for a parcell) to see their honourable grant executed, who under their command, with their hands and seales have given and transmitted unto your Worship to observe and performe, as also the honourable Company for this Plantation, granting under their hands and seales the foresaid Ministers; sundry liberties and priviledges in the aforesaid matters of worship, with your own Acts in that your late Assembly, therein allowing that liberty so granted, as aforesaid; but of late threatned (by what means we know not) with molestation and trouble, we your Petitioners protesting to yeeld and render all due honor to your authority, & respect to your persons, endeavouring by all means to avoid all occasion of actuall offence, humbly pray these aforesaid liberties may by you be allowed, and against our adversaries maintained; so shall you be instruments of Gods great glory, reap the prayers of the Saints, and we your Petitioners be obliged at the Throne of grace for you. Subscribed with about a hundred hands.

The issue was, the Assembly is called, and an Answer returned unto the Petition as followeth.

FOr as much as you challenge the High and Honourable Court of Parliament in the Kingdome of *England*, to have granted licence unto Mr. *White*, Mr. *Copland*, and

Mr.

Mr. *Golding*, whom you call Miniſters (the which themſelves have denyed) and thereby free power to exerciſe the liberty of their conſciences in matters of Gods worſhip. In anſwer hereunto, we ſay, That the Honourable Parliament, have given them no ſuch liberty, but upon the Petition of divers Inhabitants in *Summer Iſlands*, with ſuch others as ſhall adjoyne themſelves to them, that they without moleſtation have, and enjoy the liberty of their conſciences, *But not to exerciſe*, we finde no ſuch word mentioned, and the Honourable Committee hath given them protection and freedome, from any Ceremony or Impoſition in matters of Gods worſhip: all which we never denied, but (c) confirmed by an Act of our Aſſembly; neither doe I believe, that any amongſt them hath cauſe to complaine of any ſuch impoſition, ſince my comming, unleſſe it be the Innovation which they wilfully run into, In anſwer to the requeſt of you who are the Petitioners, moſt or all of you being (d) knowne to us, or moſt of us, we ſpeake unto you as in the preſence of the *Almighty* God, we have not the leaſt thought to intrench upon your liberties, or priviledges, or confine your conſciences, ſo that you practice things lawfull, if the contrary, the law will reduce you; we ſhall expect reformation in you by your obedience to *Authority*, and we deſire to live in love, and amity with you, and ſo by Gods bleſſing we doubt not of your compliance, and your conformity. Signed

John Vaughan. Secret.

(c) *A ſuperlative power, this our Parliament confirms what the Parliamen of England doth.*

(d) *Not to be drunkards, filthy perſons, ſwearers,*

The Impriſoning of Mr. *Copland*, an aged and revrend preacher many weeks for exciſing on a faſt day at the Mill (as they call it) the day was by Proclamation allowed by the Governour, but the place liked him not. *Alſo* a ſecond time he was impriſoned, the Governour pretending Mr. *Copland* ſhould ſay, That the devill in the Governour and his Councell had caſt ſome of the Church into priſon, and before M^r. *Copland* could be releaſed, he muſt be bound to his good behaviour, who asking the Governour what would breake his behaviour, he replyed, if you preach againe; to which Mr. *Copland* anſwered, Sir I knew not till now, that preaching was a breach of the good behaviour. Inſtance, the impriſoning of *John Briſtow* ten dayes, and fining him three hundred pound of Tobacco, becauſe he would not deliver the keyes of his hired houſe, unto the Governours new Marſhall, without the conſent of the Landlord, or the Governours expreſſe command; and for that the ſaid *Briſtow* (the Marſhal) took *M. White* committed to his charge, till the Governour ſhould ſecure him. This *Briſtow* was no wiſe peccant in his office by the Governours owne profeſſion, he is no Independent, but an honeſt man, and not for the Governours turne. Inſtance the impriſoning of *Mr. Moore*, for ſaying he was Councellour (as he thought) of *Pagets* Tribe, and therefore refuſed to pay his levy, and before his cenſure or impriſonment. The *London* ſhip arrived, and *Mr. Moore* was choſen Counſellour (as he had information it ſhould be) by the Company, yet is he committed to common Gaole, and denyed the place of (e) Counſellour notwithſtanding the Companies order. Capt. *Turner* knowes no authority above himſelfe, but is come in Conquerour over the *Summer Iſlands*.

(e) *Ne quid uſquam honeſti oculis occurrat. Bran.* 8.

Sleighted the power of Parliament, which appeares, Firſt, by denying the liberty granted *M. White*, and others, by that ſupreame Court. Secondly, by the words ſpoken in the *Aſſembly* (the Governour preſent) by *Th. Wood* a member thereof, when that foreſaid grant was publickly read, it is ſaid he, but a peece of parchment, and a little wax. Thirdly, by that ſecret charge of *Apoſtacy* and Rebellion on Parliament and Nation. See the act for ſuppreſſing Independents, *ſupra*. Fourthly, by the anticipation of any power to poſſeſſe the Kings Caſtle, except from the Company. See act for the eſtabliſhing Capt. *Turner* to have the command of the Caſtle in his owne hand, *ſupra*.

Fifthly, their slighting the Ordinance and power granted to the Committee for the American plantations, When pleaded by the Magistrates against the Act for casting them out.

Bran. 9. The Governour and Assembly turned out of place, Magistrates of knowne integrity; which is first against the Ordinance of Parliament to the Committee of Plantations then pleaded to by the Magistrates, but none regarded the power and authority thereof. Secondly, It is also against the Companies Declaration, which was likewise urged but without successe, in which course the Governour and Councell still persist, for *Anno* 1647. Mr. *Moore* chosen Counsellour by the Company was rejected; likewise Captaine *Turner* making an overture in the vacancy of a Counsellour in *Smiths* Tribe, that the Tribe should have liberty of naming two men, and he with his Councell would agree to choose one of them; but when it came to acting, the Governour set by the men in nomination, and chose one *Thomas Burrows* formerly censured at an Assizes, as unworthy to beare the place of Constable for misdemeanours there proved against him.

Of knowne integrity to the Parliament. This Island (Captaine *Sayle* being Governour assisted with the Councel, since cast out by Captain *Turner*) owned the Parliament, when the most of the Plantation stood either newter, or in open defiance to it; the report whereof occasioned one *Ferns* a Kings Man of warre to make prize of goods belonging to Captaine *Sayle* and other friends to the Parliament, to their damage at least five hundred pound.

Bran. 10. The Governour forbids appeales. The Magistrates aforementioned after some dayes imprisonment, sent their appeale to the Parliament and Company unto the Governour; but were kept in prison, at least three weeks after; Mr. *White* hath beene denyed his appeale to the Assizes held in this Island, to Honourable Committee, and High Court of Parliament. So in *Robert Naltons* cause, whose appeale to Assizes would not be granted, the Governour at Councell table is above all.

Bran. 11. The Governour with his Assembly forbids Ministers to preach, witnesse the order of Assembly, which is as followeth:

Die Mercurii 29. Aprilis 1646.

Tyranuis boni quem mali suspectiores sunt semperque aliena virtus, formidolosa est Salust.

WHereas we finde by daily experience what great distractions doth arise, by the intrusions of M. *White*, M. *Copland*, and M. *Golding*, into our Churches, who will not conforme themselves to the Directory of Parliament, to the great disturbance of the present Ministers, and other well disposed people; We the Generall Assembly tendring the peace and well-governing of the Church of God, and for the prevention of further mischiefe, doe order, and prohibit the said M. *White*, M. *Copland*, and Mr. *Golding* to preach in any of our Churches or Chappels, unlesse they submit to the Directory of Parliament as aforesaid; not prohibiting them to exercise their gifts, according to the extent and limitation given unto them by the High Court of Parliament, untill we receive further order and direction from them. Ordered that this be sent under the Clerkes hand, to the said Mr. *White*, Mr. *Copland* and Mr. *Golding*.

John Vaughan Secret.

This Order hath no truth in it, unlesse, in that passage, to the great disturbance of the present Ministers; to wit, Mr. *Vyner*, M. *Hooper*, both of them professing they will

will administer no Sacrament (which yet was the condition they made with the Company) to the people of those Tribes, where M. *White*, or M. *Golding*, should be suffered to preach publickly, the onely engine to keepe up the spirits of the people in opposition to M. *White*, and M. *Golding*. These Ministers whom the Assembly silence, are allowed by the Company, sent over by them at first with approbation.

Secondly, even since the difference about the Congregationall way, the Company wrote thus unto M. *Copland* and M. *Golding*, for the satisfaction of the people, wee have sent over two Ministers, who (we doubt not) will be ready according to the Directory to give them due satisfaction in point of administring Sacraments and Marriage. Wee will not take upon us to prescribe you any thing. Our desire is, that you and they, as fellow labourers may joyne hand in hand, for the good of the people. We are farre from pressing you against your consciences, we know well, that conscience is a tender thing, and must be tenderly dealt withall. Your owne discretion (we doubt not) will sufficiently instruct you to be peaceable, not to vent your selves one against another in the Pulpit, but to minde your maine worke which (as we conceive is) to preach Christ to the people, &c. Subscribed with nine of the Companies hands.

Now our adversaries cannot charge us with disobedience, unto the wise, and Religious counsell given by the Company in this their letter: though (to our faces) and in the hearing of others, we and the Congregation have beene in Pulpits charged with Schisme, Heresie, Errors, to be as *Corah*, *Dathan*, and *Abiram*, the disease of the land, and the Magistrate (as Physitians) stirred up to cut us off, and resembled to *Sampsons* foxes with firebrands at their tayles, and (to bring us yet further into contempt) the people have been publickly taught, that God is not present at the Mill (though Christ saith, two shall be grinding at the Mill, the one taken, and the other left) with such like stuffe, which we forbeare to publish; whose labour were desired by the people. The most considerable of *Sandies* Tribe petitioned the Governour to enjoy M. *Whites* Ministery, and many of *Smiths* tribe, M. *Goldings*; but the Governour would not hearken to the desires of either, and yet (if we may beleeve him, and I have heard him speake it forty times) he doth all for the glory of God, and the good of the Country.

Conceals good orders. *An.* 1647. The Company required that the Congregation should injoy their liberty and the Chappell to exercise in, this the Governour conceals from the Congregation, and makes the people believe, there is no such liberty granted to the Congregation, strengthens the hands of lewd persons. Those private Instructions which the Governour fearmed (as it is said) a boxe of poyson, were doubtlesse communicated to his Assembly, else they durst not have proceeded with so high a hand against the Congregation. Also the letter that went in Captaine *Sayles* ship, carried by a crooked fellow, *supra An.* 47. *Bran.* 12.

With many other vexatious wayes. 1. Instance, The Governour sweares men to their owne damage. *Bran.* 13. *Vexatious wayes.*

Secondly, by warrant caused eighteeen men of *Sandyes* tribe to appeare at *Georges* (twenty miles distance,) before the Assembly met a second time, because under their hands they signified, they desired not that the Assembly should so meet. Also many of *Pages* Tribe were molested upon the same pretence, by warrant commanded *Tho. Bostwick*, and one *Oker*, to answer their contempt for being active in getting hands to a Petition to the Assembly, desiring them to mediate with the Company

pany for free trade. Likewise the Governour sent forth a warrant to apprehend Mr. *John Somersale* as fellon upon suppostion, he would refuse to obey the warrant of the Assembly met a second time, against which Assembly, he the said *Somersale* one of them, had openly protested and withdrawn from them. *Octo 7 An.* 647. *Will. Golding* was served with a warrant to attend the Governour sitting with his Councell and Assembly eight miles distance, & when the said *Wil. Goldi g* appeared, the Governour with the rest; said nothing to him; at which time *Will. Golding* heard Captaine *Wood*, and others say, they would maintaine Their Lawes with their lives.

Thirdly, Governour and Councell have changed the levy, payable by the Country for generall uses, it was formerly assessed by the head. Now by the Acre; to wit, one pound of Tobacco *per* Acre; the levy this yeare amounted unto eleven thousand of Tobacco, or thereabours, usually (in other Governours times) not above five thousand; all the generall worke in view, is the covering of the Sessions house, which is made a Dove-coat, and set with looking-glasses for the Pigeons to dresse themselves by, no forts, no publick houses repayred, though there is need enough.

The Governour gives the Country no account, but in grosse how this levy grow, onely the Counsellours told us, *Item* three hundred pound of Tobacco for Cedar planks sent by the Governour as a present to Mr. *Prinn* (who aspersed the Congregation.) And one Major *Williams*, *Item* seven hundred pound of Tobacco in arrears since the former yeare, five hundred pound of Tobacco for servants to over-see Mr. *Whitualls*, and Mr. *Halls* businesse, when they were employed Ambassadours to *England* from the Governour unto the Company; also note for their charges levyed upon the Country thirty six pound Sterlin, since which time, sixty pound Sterlin, out of the Spanish wreck hath been disbursed upon that account. The occasion of sending these men for *England* was this, Captaine *Sayle* and *Wil. Golding* having appealed from the Governour and Assembly; and resolving to goe for *England* to exhibit their Complaints against them; the Governour with some of his Councell judged meet to send Mr. *Hall*, and Mr. *Whitnall* to maintaine the Acts made by the Assembly, and accuse the Congregation, but prevailing in neither, they returned.

Now the Country must beare their charges, yea the Congregation (against whom they were imployed) before convicted of any offence done, must contribute to the vaine expences of these men. Also the Congregation are forced to pay for Communion wine for the use of the Tribe, though neither they, nor theirs, have any benefit by it. Also to the Readers of the respective Tribes, though some (or most of them) be knowne drunkards.

Many of the inhabitants unsatisfied with this account, refused payment; and the Counsellours by the Governours warrant (signed before any levyes were demanded) distrained on their Tobacco, and tooke their owne demands.

Fourthly, The Governour at a mustering dis-armed those of the Congregation, and their friends, and all at the same time, passionately beat one *Chaplin* with his keyne, for asking (after his armes were taken from him) whither hee must stay in the body, or go forth. Also one *Hill* upon a sleight preterence. Likewise, hee commanded a file of Musquetteers to seize Mr. *Painters* Armes, which were then delivered; and why may not the Governour send a file of Musquetteers to cease my bed money, or servants?

Fifthly, at an Assizes *Wil. Golding* (then in *England*) was sued by Mr. *Christopher*

Pits

Pits for five kundred pound of Tobacco, which the ſaid *Pits* recovered, and upon execution forceably tooke from the wife of *Will. Golding* in his abſence: but how comes *Will. Golding* to be liable to this debt? Thus, Captaine *Chadocke* undertooke for ſome ſuch debt, for Mr *Worth*, whom he tooke with him to *Trinidado*, but ſtood not engaged to pay that debt to M. *Pits*; Captain *Chadock* makes M. *Rich. Waylet* (who married Captaine *Chadocks* daughter) a letter of attorney, Captaine *Chadock* dyed, and his two ſonnes inherit and divide his eſtate. M. *Waylet*(e) dyes. Now M. *Golding* marrying with M. *Waylets* widow is ſued for his debt, and the Governour informes the Iury, that it is juſt that Captaine *Chadocks* daughter ſhould pay it, and the Iury found it ſo. At the ſame Aſſizes, M. *Painter* is warned to make his appearance, but muſt not know wherefore, who giving his attendance, an action of defamation was laid againſt him by M. *Vyner*, for ſaying M. *Vyner* drunke *Aqua Vitæ*, as faſt as Mrs. *Foord* could ſtill it, or ſuch like words, M. *Painter* deſires reſpite untill the next Aſſizes, but would not be granted. M. *Painter* denies the words

(e) Actio perſonalis, moritur cum perſona.

The Governour is his accuſer, the ſole witneſſe and Advocate to the Iury to heighten the action, and likewiſe the Iudge, and Iury findes the action five hundred pound Sterlin for the Plaintiffe.

Seventhly, at an Aſſizes held *An.* 1647. M. *White* obtained a warrant to ſummon down ſome perſons, againſt whom he had juſt acceptions, entred his Actions, and prepared his witneſſes, but when he moved the Court, his actions might be called upon; it was denyed, notwithſtanding the Aſſizes before he tooke the oath of Supremacy, which the Governour urged upon him, ſuppoſing his refuſall would have rendred him uncapable of the liberty of a Subject, the Governour aſhamed to urge the oath a ſecond time, is not aſhamed to give Mr. *White* a flat denialt of trying actions.

Eightly, whiles *Will. Golding* was in *England*, the Governour complying with lewd fellows, ſought to take away the life of his deare wife, pretending words of mutiny againſt her, and told her aforehand, he would hang her, but nothing being proved, he loſt his longing, and diſmiſt her accuſers without a checke.

Ninthly, a Spaniſh Ship endangered amongſt the Rocks, *Feb* 14. 1647 the Governour (before the ſhip was wrackt, or the Company of the Ship forſaken her) with his owne hands, and by his appointment, did ſo pillage and ranſacke (even beyond modeſty) the diſtreſſed men that came a ſhoare, that he hath made the Iſland ſtinke in the noſtrills of the Spaniards, and expoſed the Inhabitants, and other of the Engliſh Plantations to their wrath, when they ſhall fall into their hands; and herein he is incouraged by the trading party (who not contenting themſelves with invading the liberties of the Inhabitants, expoſe their lives to the fury of a forreigner) for the Company in their inſtructions ſent over with Captaine *Turner* give liberty to pillage all Spaniards who ſhall fall upon the coaſts. As alſo in a generall letter to Captaine *Chadock*, *An.* 1640 they give theſe inſtructions: and that when any Spaniards doe hereafter fall into diſtreſſe on thoſe Iſlands, and ſhall ſend, or ſeeme to capitulate before their arrivall on land, that you and the Councell there, doe require them to caſt themſelves on, or ſtand to your courteſie, or otherwiſe, that you keep them off, and doe not ſuffer them to land. Signed with fourteen hands: Captain *Turner* laying hold upon this advantage, ſo minded the enriching of himſelfe thereby, that he neglected the ſafety of the Iſland; for how eaſie had it been for the juſtly provoked (though diſarmed party) if the feare of God had not reſtrained them, to have joyned with the Spaniards, and have wrought their will upon him, and his

Scutum tibi potius, quam gladium sume. Liu.

faction without resistance. I onely hint this, to let the world see, that Independents (as they call them) dare not take those advantages, which carnall prudence prompt others too; but quietly commit themselves unto the (I) Righteous Judge of all the world for compensation for wrongs done them, in the day of recompence for Zions controversie.

Thus much touching the complaints contained in the Petition. Animadversions upon the requests therein, fall next under consideration.

Requests.

First, we crave liberty to transplant our selves; first, because it hath been, and may againe be denyed, while the Company continue an unlimited power over us, in what we have and are.

Secondly, The Island will not beare the increase of men and beasts.

Thirdly, The Land is worne out, not enjoying a Sabbath these thirty yeares.

Fourthly, We have served the Trading Company long enough and for nought, and are unwilling to leave our children bondslaves.

Fifthly, We cannot beare the yoke of tyranny, nor the insolency of worthlesse and illiterate men, to be our lawlesse judges; especially in the matters of God the things whereof they savour not.

Sixtly, We are deserted of the Company, who in justice should relieve us; and at best in our redresses to them, the remedy hath proved worse then the disease, who (if at any time they have saved the children of the needy, yet, have not broken in peeces their oppressors, Psal. 72. 4. the failing in either is a defect in justice.

Seventhly, Suppose our Rockes were Amber-greece, and our mountaines the finest gold, yet would the trading party invent waves, by raising rents, by new impositions, by limiting us to their ship and goods; by demurages or the like, to keepe us still in rags (almost) to nakednesse.

Secondly, Liberty of free trade of propriety of goods.

First, it is our birth-right, and that ancient bounds left us by our fathers to inherit, let them whom it doth concerne, consult the word of truth, Deut. 27. 17. Cursed be he that removeth his neighbours landmarke, and let all the people say, Amen.

Secondly, we earne it with the hazard of our lives, and a kinde of banishment.

Thirdly, It is the priviledge of all other English Plantations, who have either meanes, or hopes of support, besides Tobacco, which we want.

Fourthly, in case the *London* ship should miscarry, where should the Inhabitants seeke supply, or hope for it.

Fifthly, If Tobacco beare a low price, the Company will send a ship, but little goods. Instance *An.* 1647. hardly one hundred pound Cargo from the Company to accommodate foure thousand people, and Captaine *Turner*, the mouth of the trading party, protested he cared not if the Tobacco yeelded but fraught and duties, it should be sent home, if the trading Company may be maintained; it matters not what becomes of the poor Planters.

(The life of man) *Homo quasi ὁμοῦ simul* Scal.

Sixtly, why should the Inhabitants be debarred of the benefit of society and commerce, which is the Islands cause, whilst ships that passe by have no encouragement to anchor in our Harbour.

Seventhly, Many worthy members of the Company would grant this liberty, who being free thereof, are interest in all due profits as any other.

Third head. That offenders be put into a way of Triall; First, because the

faction

faction of the Governour is so prevalent, that we can have no hopes of right here, having this experience, that such as have been named by the Tribe for Jury men (if they comply not with the Governours liking) have been discharged, or put upon the Jury of life and death, though no use of such a Jury at that time.

Secondly, because many crimes are capitall, requiring witnesses to depose *viva voce*: now we have not liberty, or power to examine witnesses, and take attestations which they desired from the Governour, could not be obtained, or not exercised, when seemingly granted.

Thirdly, most of the Magistrates are parties in the charge, and how can we with prudence engage them in these causes.

Fourthly, we cannot confide in all, who have power to take attestations, it is knowne to us, Attestations have been mended, lamed, and how should we in this confusion be secure.

Fourth head: That the Deputy-governour may be questioned: First, *interrorem*, that his examples be not a president or emboldning to the succeeding Governour, because justice upon offenders, is not speedily executed, the heart of the sons of men, are set to doe evill.

Secondly, That the peace of the Country may be preserved.

Thirdly, how else shall the oppressed be righted, or secured for the future? *Job* hath a saying, That the hypocrite reign not lest the people be ensnared, *Job* 34. 30. That the new elected Counsellours and Commanders may be reduced. First, The Company who plead this priviledge, have not done it; they restored indeed two Counsellours but the Governour allows but one of them. Secondly, else usurpation in authority will be justified. Thirdly, else it is all one, as though the Governour was paramount; for if he be left to himselfe, to place and displace Magistrates and Commanders, (they being his creatures) must in all comply with him, or lose their honour. Fourthly, else those Magistrates and Officers who have beene faithfull to the State and Company, and have suffered so much infamy cannot be repaired in their reputation. Fifthly, they and others will bee discouraged for the future to serve the publicke, if thus left under the feet of vile men. Sixtly, else the Island will soone be corrupted; most of that new creation, being men of foule mouthes and lives, giving bad examples, not daring to punish sin in others, themselves being in the same or greater condemnation.

Truly there is nothing owned for sin with us, but going to the Mill, walking soberly, humbly, and non-compliance with workers of iniquity. These are the ill-affected persons, the Malignants, the disobedient to Authority, refractory, &c. In the language of the Governour and Assembly, in their Acts and Proclamations.

Conclusion. The result is, to leave the world to judge whether these things gathered up, and put together, will not amount in the Governours Councell and Assembly in Summer-Islands, to a premunire exercise of Arbitrary power, injustice, impiety, oppression in a high degree, (that I say not) tyranny in some of them who have thus acted? and whether it is not a righteous thing that those who have usurped power should be made uncapable of the exercise of power for the future? As for the Trading party in the Company, who have drawne downe (at least collaterally) dishonour (that I say not) guilt upon that Honourable Society, I shall leave them to the wisdome and justice of a full Court of their owne; or rather at the bar of the supreame Judicature of our Nation, before whom the Complaints lye; waiting with patience their Honours Resolution.

Ob virtutes certissimum exitium. Sac. Hist.

Now

Now if any man shall object, I am to busie, and besides my calling.

I answer, First, I am sorry that there was occasion given me.

Secondly, Ministers are men, their lives, families, estates, and liberties, are civill things, and whilst invaded, cannot but complaine.

Thirdly, the Company and Assembly have quitted me of a third part of that labour in the exercise of my Calling, whilst a Preacher to the Country. I can now spare time to study men, especially those who study my undoing in whatsoever is deare unto me.

Fourthly, It is not improper to the Ministers of the Gospell to beare witnesse against all unrighteousnesse of men, and when their mouthes are stopt, to speake in Print, the words of truth and sobernesse.

Fifthly, who knowes but the discovery of these things may lead some concerned in them unto repentance, which is all the harme I wish these lines produce.

Lastly, I am engaged, and should seem to mocke the Honourable Parliament and Committee, should I not pursue the complaints exhibited to them; nor would the condition of that Congregation, the state of my family, my personall infirmities and expence, far above my estate, (not having the least allowance from the Congregation or Company) nor yet the unsettled state of the Nation, as then it stood, suffer me to stay and plead to the Petition; all which considered I am inforced to make this Remonstrance professing (in the presence of God) I have endeavoured it with all fidelity, not making lies my refuge; if any mistakes be, it is through mis-information and in lesser things. The substance of the Remonstrance, specially in matters concerning the Governour, his Councell and Assembly, will be attested (if need be) by faithfull witnesses. The Lord settle truth, justice and peace, throughout the earth, and honour our Nation to be the *Coryphaus* and first leader in it. Amen.

Summer-Ilands 7. of the first Month, *viz.* *March*, 1647.

FINIS.

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